

**CITY OF FRESNO
DISABILITY ADVISORY COMMISSION**

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Approved – Minutes of the January 18, 2011 Meeting

DAC Commission Members Present: Michelle Bronson (Vice Chair), Robert Hand, Jenelle Pitt, Mary Beth Randall, Rachelle Taylor (Chair), Dorothy Young, Carlos Duarte (*ex officio*)

Staff Present: Elizabeth Kunz, DAC Secretary

Call to Order

Call to Order and self introductions were made.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the October and December 2010 were accepted without revision by motion of Member Randall, seconded by Member Bronson.

Member Reports and Comments

Member Randall stated that she is selling calendars to benefit the Valley Center for the Blind (VCB) for \$10 and that VCB is also selling coupon books at a cost of \$20. Coupon books are available at the VCB office.

Unscheduled Communication

Dorothy Hoefling reported an incident in which a bus driver did not want to let her dog on the bus, even though she described the dog as a working dog. Ms. Hoefling provided the bus time, date and location. She stated that she was eventually let on the bus, she had to wait to be boarded, and objected to other occasions when bus drivers have boarded her last. Member Duarte suggested that he speak with Ms. Hoefling after the meeting. Member Young asked if she had been allowed on the bus with her dog. Ms. Hoefling responded that she has sometimes had a problem getting on the bus with her dog when the bus is very crowded.

John Ramirez addressed the DAC, requesting additional advanced notice of the agenda; stated that many FAX drivers are rude to wheelchair users and leave them at bus stops; addressed the responsibilities of the DAC membership; questioned the appointment process and indicated that he would like to be a DAC member.

Fred R. Stroman addressed the DAC, stating that he was a former bus driver. He opined that wheelchairs should be boarded first, requested longer hours for weekday bus service; spoke to the rate increases and the small percentage of individuals using Metro Passes; indicated that rates should have been increased in previous years and suggested lower rates for specific passes; suggested that routes 22, 28, 34, 30, 38 should go to 20 minute service and expressed concern that money from FAX was being reallocated to the general fund.

Sean Johnson introduced himself to the DAC as the City's new Emergency Preparedness Officer, replacing Gary Eberhard.

Action Item: Changing the 2011 DAC meeting time

Member Young made a motion to change the time of the regularly-scheduled DAC meetings to the 3rd Tuesday of the month 10:00 am – 11:30 am. This motion was seconded by Member Bronson and passed without opposition. [Note: there are no regularly-scheduled meetings in July or November of each year.]

Presentation: Deaf and Hard of Hearing Service Center (DHHSC) on the Need for Captioning of Local Television News

Rosemary Diaz identified herself as an advocate and a consumer of captioning services and gave a short presentation on the need for reliable captioning of local television news in conformance with Federal Communications Commission (FCC) rules. She stated that the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Service Center (DHHSC) is forming a focus group to provide feedback to the local television news outlets in order to provide feedback and solutions to the local news outlets. Ms. Diaz asked that the DAC join DHHSC by providing a letter of support for this endeavor.

Action Item: Letter of support for DHHSC regarding captioning

Member Hand made a motion to provide a letter of support to DHHSC; the motion was seconded by Member Randall.

Chair Taylor opened the floor to public comment.

Marilyn McCullen spoke in support of captioning, and its importance in providing information necessary to handle an emergency.

Member Bronson also spoke in support of captioning, relating her own experience in an emergency incident when an airplane crashed near her place of employment, and asserting the importance of captioning for Deaf and Hard of Hearing people in these circumstances.

The motion passed unanimously.

Formation of a Task Force to Review Selected Handyride Policies

Member Duarte stated that he was requesting a task force to review Handyride policies in light of recent recommendations developed based upon reviews of public transportation agencies throughout the nation on issues including eligibility, suspension, vehicle features, telephone hold time and support staff. Member Randall agreed to participate on the task force.

Adjournment

There being no further business to bring before the Commission, Member Randall motioned to adjourn the meeting, Member Bronson seconded the motion, and the motion passed without opposition.